Bangash, Pratap Nagar, Rampura, Shakur Basti, Mangol Puri; Subzi Mandi to Holambi Kalan via Shakti Nagar, Azadpur, Naya Azadpur, Transport Nagar, Badli, Khera Kalan, Ambedkar Colony; and under ground rail from Central Secretariat to Vishwa Vidyalaya via. Connaught Place, New/Old Delhi Railway Station, I.S.B.T. and Old Secretariat. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4860 crores (at April, 96 prices). The project is proposed to be completed within nine years from 1.4.1996.

[English]

REC Aid to Maharashtra

2725. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the projects financed by REC in Maharashtra and funds sought, released and actually utilised by the State during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise;

(b) whether non-release or delay in release of funds has affected implementation of these projects;

(c) if so, the action taken to ensure timely and adequate release of funds to the executing agency; and

(d) the number and names of projects cleared and under consideration for financial support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides financial assistance to Maharashtra State Electricity Board for the intensive electrification of already electrified villages, energisation of pumpsets and improvements in the power systems of rural areas under various categories of projects. The Planning Commission allocates funds every year for rural electrification in accordance with the proposals of the States. The Planning Commission allocation and the amount disbursed by REC to Maharashtra State under its various categories of sanctioned schemes for the last three years is given hereunder :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Amount disbursed by REC
1993-94	4650	5647
1994-95	6254	9299
1995-96	6330	9730

The amount disbursed by REC to Maharashtra State has been fully utilised.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, it does not arise.

(d) REC has allocated for Maharashtra in 1996-97, Rs. 6700 lakhs for the programmes of System Improvement, Pumpset Energisation and Load Intensification. These schemes are being sanctioned by REC, in accordance with the requirements of MSEB and as approved by Planning Commission, so as to ensure full utilisation of the funds.

[Translation]

Employment Guarantee Scheme

2726. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced any employment Guarantee scheme for the betterment of the people living below the poverty line in rural areas;

(b) whether there is any instruction in this scheme to make payment to the beneficiaries only after they have done their fifty percent work;

(c) whether the beneficiaries are capable of completing their fifty percent work without any prior payment;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to make advance payment to the beneficiaries against the quantum of work they have done; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have introduced Employment Assurance Scheme for providing wage employment during lean agricultural season to the rural poor.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. There are instructions that the wages should be paid weekly, preferably on the local market day.

(e) Does not arise.

Drinking Water

2727. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of rural population provided the facilities of drinking water and sanitation during 1985, 1990 and 1997;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the sanitation facilities in rural areas; and

(c) the extent to which the non-Government organisations have been involved in rendering assistance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The percentage of rural population provided with the Water Supply and